

Claims

1. A tissue capturing element comprising:
an internal tissue contacting portion,
an external tissue portion, and
a tissue contacting anchor for maintaining the element in position relative
to the tissue.

2. A tissue capturing element as defined in claim 1 further comprising a first
configuration and a second configuration.

3. A tissue capturing element as defined in claim 2 wherein the interior tissue
portion is configured to undergo a shape change that distinguishes the second
configuration from the first configuration.

4. A tissue capturing element as defined in claim 2 wherein the exterior
tissue portion is configured to undergo a shape change that distinguishes the second
configuration from the first configuration.

5. A tissue capturing element as defined in claim 2 wherein the tissue anchor
is configured to undergo a shape change that distinguishes a second configuration from
the first configuration.

6. A method of capturing tissue in a distorted form comprising:
providing a tissue capturing element having an exterior tissue portion, an
interior tissue portion and a tissue anchor portion;
inserting the tissue capturing element so that the interior tissue portion is
contained within the subject tissue;

deforming the interior tissue portion of the device to engage the tissue.

7. A method of capturing tissue in a distorted form comprising:
 - providing a tissue capturing element having an exterior tissue portion, an interior tissue portion and a tissue anchor portion;
 - inserting the tissue capturing element so that the interior tissue portion is contained within the subject tissue;
 - deforming the exterior tissue portion to engage the tissue.
8. A method of capturing tissue in a distorted form comprising:
 - providing a tissue capturing element having an exterior tissue portion, an interior tissue portion and a tissue anchor portion;
 - inserting the tissue capturing element so that the interior tissue portion is contained within the subject tissue;
 - deforming the tissue anchor portion in order to engage the tissue.
9. A tissue capturing element comprising:
 - at least one tissue engaging portion;
 - at least one distortion portion for becoming distorted to hold tissue in a distorted shape; and
 - at least one securement mechanism for retaining the element in its tissue distorting form.